

From: "Carolyn Noah" <cnoah@cwmarssmail.cwmars.org>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("iflanner@fcc.gov","mnadel@fcc.gov...
Date: 10/14/97 5:59am
Subject: forms for universal service program

Dear Mark Nadel and Irene Flannery,

The proposed changes to forms for use by library and school applicants for universal service will place an unwarranted burden on the applicants.

The proposed changes discourage aggregation -- and will also discourage schools and libraries from applying for the discount program.

I do not support the changes, especially those made on Form 471.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Noah

* * * * *

Carolyn Noah, Consultant
Central Massachusetts Regional Library System
3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA 01608-2074
tel: 508 799-1697 fax: 508 799-1611
e-mail: cnoah@cwmarssmail.cwmars.org

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ)

From: "Marnie Oakes MLI (978) 486-4046" <oakes@mvlc.lib.ma.us>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("iflanner@fcc.gov","mnadel@fcc.gov...
Date: 10/11/97 6:51pm
Subject: Universal Service Applications

Good Day:

I am concerned about the application process for Universal Service Discounts. I am the library director in a small town (7,500) in Massachusetts. Our library has recently joined a 29 member consortium in order to save staff time--technical, administrative, and service--, and to provide service to our community in a cost effective manner. I have seen the draft application forms for universal service discounts. I found them less than straight forward. Now I understand that changes have been proposed that would make the forms more complicated and detailed and require details from individual libraries instead of consortia and systems.

Library and school media center directors, especially in small, poor towns, are stretched beyond their limits providing service to their patrons. Aren't the discounts supposed to stretch the resources of such towns? Making the application forms cumbersome will mean that the very entities the discounts are supposed to help will have the most difficulty in applying for them. We need to have a simple process which allows administrators of school districts, library consortia, etc. to take care of applying for individual entities. Those who do not belong to such groups are even more in need of a simple, streamlined application process. Keep paperwork to a minimum, please.

* * * * *

Marnie Oakes, Director

Reuben Hoar Library	Phone: 508-486-4046
41 Shattuck Street	Fax: 508-952-2323
Littleton, MA 01460	e-mail: oakes@mvlc.lib.ma.us

* * * * *

From: Lucie Osborn <LOsborn@larm.lib.wy.us>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("mnadel@fcc.gov","iflanner@fcc.gov...
Date: 10/13/97 8:52pm
Subject: FCC proposed application formsfor USF

The following comments pertain to the FCC proposed application forms for the Universal Service program.

Please keep the forms as simple as possible. With the limited knowledge I presently have concerning all the RFPs, applications, bids, contracts, etc that relate to Universal Service, I question if making application for discounts will be a cost effective activity for the library where I am Director. The Laramie County Library System is the largest library in terms of population served in Wyoming. If I am having such reservations then I expect my colleagues who are in much more rural situations and therefore have very limited staff resources are having similar, if not stronger reservations.

Please keep in mind the rural areas that Universal Service is to benefit. In some cases a county library with two or three staff members are serving fewer people than may live in an apartment high-rise in an urban area, but yet a county library must do all the things that a large metropolitan library must do but on a smaller scale and without large staff resources.

Again, please keep the process, applications and other related "hoops" as simple as possible. You are defeating the purpose of the USF by making the application process too difficult for those who truly need it.

Thank you

Lucie P. Osborn
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2800 Central Ave.
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losborn@larm.lib.wy.us
307-635-1032
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CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ),ALA_DC_DMN.INET("kcapron...

From: "Eileen M. Palmer" <empalmer@tln.lib.mi.us>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("iflanner@fcc.gov","mnadel@fcc.gov...
Date: 10/12/97 1:57pm
Subject: Proposed Form Changes

Dear Mr. Nagel and Ms. Flannery,

I write today to request that the FCC carefully consider the unfortunate impact of the proposed changes to the universal service forms to be used by schools and libraries -- specifically Form 471. The proposed changes to items #7 and #8, if adopted, would create considerable challenges for a public library cooperative such as The Library Network (TLN). TLN has been providing telecommunications services to its member libraries since the early 1980's. Our members who use this service share costs based on number of factors, of which economic need is only one element. Factors such as relative use of the network and size of population served allow a cost sharing formula that ensures all of our libraries (from the wealthiest to the poorest and from the largest to the smallest) can afford to participate. Our members are responsible for developing the cost sharing plan and have always done so with intentions similar to that expressed by Congress in providing for the universal service fund program -- that is we have aggregated demand and ensured that equal services could be provided to residents of all communities.

It is ironic that the proposed changes would, for TLN, cause a realignment of our cost sharing mechanisms and quite possibly jeopardize the ability of some of our libraries to continue to participate. We view the universal service fund program as an opportunity to expand the services our member libraries are able to offer to the patrons of their libraries. The expansion of services such as access to the Internet would not be possible for many of our members without the universal service program. However, with the proposed changes to Form 471, we will be far less likely to be able to realize its full potential.

Additionally, the administrative burden on a library cooperative the size of TLN (currently 59 buildings are a part of our wide area network) would be enormous. We had hoped to be able to administer TLN's participation in the universal service program without substantial administrative cost. While we fully understand (and are more than willing to comply with) the rules relating to technology planning, procurement practices, self certification and audit/recordkeeping requirements we feel the proposed changes to Form 471 are both burdensome and counterproductive to the intent of the program.

We respectfully request the FCC to carefully review the impact of these proposed changes before proceeding and reaffirm the current version of Form 471. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Cordially,

Eileen M. Palmer
Deputy Director for Member Library Services

Eileen M. Palmer Deputy Director for Member Library Services
The Library Network empalmer@tln.lib.mi.us
13331 Reeck Road tel: (313) 281-3830 ext. 107
Southgate, MI 48195 fax: (313) 281-1905

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ)

From: Gary Porter <gporter@astrolabe.com>
To: "'mnadel@fcc.gov'" <mnadel@fcc.gov>, "'iflanner@fc...
Date: 10/13/97 2:21pm
Subject: Comments regarding Form 471

I have heard through discussion groups that there are proposed changes to form 471 that would require schools to allocate the costs of all discounted services to each school. I understand the FCC's concern regarding the most impoverished schools within a district receiving the appropriate subsidy. I would strongly urge keeping the USF as simple as possible. There are 2 main points that I would like to make supporting this:

1. In paragraph 523, concerns are discussed, but the final sentence reads, "The school district or state may decide to compute the discounts on an individual school basis or it may decide to compute an average discount; in either case, the state or the district shall strive to ensure that each school receives the full benefit of the discount to which it is entitled." I believe that the intent is to allow a district to aggregate all costs under the single filing entity, with the burden of allocating benefit to that entity.

2. This entity is required to have an approved plan to use this technology. Unless the Schools and Libraries Corp. is planning to oversee the implementation, I believe that the proposed changes will produce useless data (not information). Let the districts be responsible to implement their plans.

In Alaska, we have many schools located in remote villages where the cost of service is too expensive to afford. The USF discount will make it possible to connect these schools to the Internet. I have not run into a district yet that is that is not planning to make the best choices for aggregating discounts and planning to implement services where they are needed the most.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,
Gary Porter

Gary Porter
Astrolabe Systems, Inc.
(907) 565-5000
(907) 565-5001 (fax)

CC: "'asj@alawash.org'" <asj@alawash.org>, David Porte...

From: Gregory Raschke <raschke@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("mnadel@fcc.gov")
Date: 10/13/97 10:04pm
Subject: Library Forms

Hello Mr. Mark Nadel:

I just wanted to write you and let you know how burdensome the proposed individual calculations of costs are for small libraries and schools. These burdens actively discourage aggregation (which is perhaps the single most effective way of lowering costs for libraries and schools), and, in fact, discourage libraries and schools from applying for the discount program.

Greg Raschke
Graduate Assistant
Grainger Engineering Library

raschke@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu
217-244-7829

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ)

From: Bob Raz <braz@grapids.lib.mi.us>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("iflanner@fcc.gov","mnadel@fcc.gov...
Date: 10/13/97 12:27pm
Subject: FCC Universal Service Program Application Forms for Libraries and Schools

Mark & Irene:

I am writing to comment on the changes in the newly proposed application forms for the universal service program. The changes you are contemplating in items #7 and #8 on Form 471 will become major headaches for all of us out here in libraryland. And it will be an impossible burden for many Michigan school districts since the paperwork required could kill the incentive to seek the discounts. Most of the people for whom you are contemplating these regulations are not even aware that you are doing so.

At the Grand Rapids Public Library (Michigan) we have seven facilities to deal with and we will be looking at a number of different services to purchase. We need one library system discount calculation rather than individualized for every location.

Remember too, that keeping it more simple for us will reduce your paperwork as well. I hope we are both trying to accomplish what our elected representatives wanted with this legislation - to provide citizens who are the least likely to benefit from the telecommunications advances, with access to these important resources. Our library has trained thousands of people to use the Internet with free classes but we are suffering from not being able to afford more access. We are excited about what we can accomplish for our citizens when universal discounts become available.

Let's keep the paperwork to a minimum and serve our citizens. Thank you.

--

Robert Raz, Director, Grand Rapids Public Library
60 Library Plaza NE, Grand Rapids MI 49503
Ph: 616-456-3620 Fax: 616-456-3619

From: Sally Reed <sreed@leo.vsla.edu>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("vplda-list@leo.vsla.edu")
Date: 10/13/97 11:16am
Subject: One Minute -BIG effect!

Because this is **so** critical for public and school libraries' future, I would like to reinforce Lindda Krantz' recent posting re: disocunted telecommunications rates. Please take ONE MINUTE to make a BIG difference for libraries. As Linda's post indicated, there is a move afoot to change the application requirements for discounted rates that will tremendously complicate the process and may well paralyze the neediest libraries keeping them from getting the discounts they need. We want a simplified application process that encompasses service for our entire systems or consortias. Please let the FCC know that NOW!!

Simply email your message to: Mark Nadel (mnadel@fcc.gov) and Irene Flannery (iflanner@fcc.gov) TODAY -- Deadline, tomorrow at noon. ALSO, please copy your email messages to ALA's washington office (asj@alawash.org).

Dont Delay, don't logoff until you send this critical post to Washington. THANKS!!! from all the future users of technology in libraries!!

--

Sally G. Reed
Director of Libraries
301 E. City Hall Ave.
Norfolk, Va 23510
757-664-7339 (voice)
757-664-7320 (fax)

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ)

From: Melissa Riley <honeybee@netcom.com>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("mnadel@fcc.gov.flanner@fcc.gov")
Date: 10/13/97 4:52pm
Subject: Eliminate barriers to universal service created by forms proposed on Friday

Dear Ms.Flannery and Mr. Nadel:

I beg you not to carry on with the application forms proposed on Friday which will make it virtually impossible for the most needy libraries and schools to gain access to the Internet.

These forms appear to be a either a manifestation of fatally counterproductive micro-management or a devious effort to prevent many libraries and schools from applying. In either case these ridiculous forms make a mockery of the universal service the President and Vice President frequently cite as an essential of federal information policy. Among other problems, requiring information (as does form 471) which is non-existent and cannot be provided creates a Catch 22, as well as creating a huge amount of totally unnecessary paperwork. I ask you to ask yourselves: "What is the point?" and "Will the system be improved?"

Surely you will not want to be held responsible for such folly. Please eliminate these bureaucratic absurdities. Restore the former wording on the forms and restore the hope of universal service to the American people.

Melissa Riley
Public Librarian

Coordinator, California Library Association Intellectual Freedom Round Table
Member, California Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee
Director, American Library Association Round Table
Chair, San Francisco Public Library Librarians' Guild Intellectual Freedom Committee
510 524-2155 Fax 524-5938

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ)

From: Jan Sanders <jsanders@bartlesville.lib.ok.us>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ),ALA_DC_DMN.INET("mnadel@...
Date: 10/13/97 12:57pm
Subject: rate for universal services

As a leader in Oklahoma's libraries, I have been following closely the formation and structure of the proposed universal service rates and application processes. It appears that the FCC is now putting forth even greater roadblocks to libraries and schools. In order to complete the application, a system or consortia would need to portion out services, support, charges, etc. to each of its member groups, and for each of its connections. This is highly inefficient and troublesome. Applicants having a multitude of service provider stations (branches, member libraries, neighborhood school buildings) should be able to combine those figures into a single request. This is the best way to aggregate the funding, secure the best service, and most efficiently use the monies for their prescribed benefit: providing low-cost access to schools and libraries and the publics we serve.
Thank you.

From: Rich Schlesselman <rschless@genie.esu10.k12.ne.us>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("iflanner@fcc.gov", "mnadel@fcc.gov...
Date: 10/13/97 9:12am
Subject: Universal Service Fund

As I continue to read information on the development of the USF, I become more frustrated. As I understand the USF legislation, it was to allow all school districts equal access to the fund to provide reduced telecommunications cost to school and libraries in part. As an administrator in a small school, I am beginning to believe that this fund will end up as most other "helpful programs" provided by the U.S. government to schools. It will be full of bureaucracy and loopholes that small districts without lawyers and grant writers on staff to forge through the non-sense will not be able to qualify for and the only people to benefit will be urban districts that have those kind of people on staff and the bureaucrats and their cronies that get the big bucks to administer the programs.

When I initially heard about this program, I was impressed that it was going to be relatively simple and a district such as ours that depends heavily on telecommunications with our distance learning and the amount of dependence we have on phone service because of our remoteness would benefit greatly. Now I wonder if any small rural schools will be able to afford the bureaucracy that it appears you are trying to put on us.

I hope you will reconsider the complexity of these changes and make it reachable for small rural districts such as Anselmo-Merna which is who it was supposedly designed in part for.

Thank you

//

Rich Schlesselman, Sup't.

Anselmo-Merna Public School

STEP Coordinator

"A lot of things have happened in this century and most of them plug in to walls"

//

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ)

From: David Slater <dslater@ocln.org>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("IFLANNERY@FCC.GOV", "MNADEL@FCC.GO...
Date: 10/13/97 10:52am
Subject: Universal Service Form 470 and Form 471

Mark and Irene,

I am writing to comment on the proposed changes to Forms 470 and 471.

I manage a network of 25 public libraries and I am deeply concerned that the proposed changes will further complicate the process of obtaining Universal Service discounts. Libraries and schools are relying on these discounts to enable them to add and upgrade their datalines and equipment for graphical Internet access. The proposed changes will delay projects that are in the planning phase and nearing implementation. The danger also exists that by complicating the process some eligible schools and libraries may not apply.

As the Director of the Old Colony Library Network, I am personally concerned with the proposed changes that will require me to make multiple filings for contracts that cover the entire network. I urge you to simplify the filing process rather than make it more complicated.

David Slater, Network Administrator
Old Colony Library Network
Canton MA 02021

email dslater@ocln.org
phone 617-828-9764
fax 617-828-6458

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ), ALA_DC_DMN.INET("NETADMI...

From: Betty Anne Smith <bettyasmith@InfoAve.Net>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("mnadel@fcc.gov")
Date: 10/13/97 5:08pm
Subject: FIX the FORMS

As a school media specialist in a school, I am definitely in favor of having forms which make it easy to receive discounts and services. Therefore I am opposed to the proposed changes in the draft forms of applications for the universal service program. I am particularly concerned with items #7 and #8 which were altered to read "Services provided to" rather than "Services ordered." I really believe that our goal is to make services available to ALL students in the U.S., not to make it more difficult for poor and rural areas.

Betty Anne Smith
School Library Media Specialist
Royall Elementary School
1400 Woods Road
Florence, SC 29501
803-664-8167

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ), ALA_DC_DMN.INET("iflanne...)

From: Diane Solomon <solomod@snoopy.tbtc.lib.fl.us>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("iflanner@fcc.gov","mnadel@fcc.gov...
Date: 10/13/97 3:24pm
Subject: Aggregates and Universal Service

TO: Mark Nadel, FCC, Universal Service Branch
Irene Flannery, FCC, Universal Service Branch

cc: Aleck Johnson, ALA, Office of Information Technology Policy

FROM: Diane Solomon, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Library Consortium
10002 Princess Palm Ave. Suite 124, Tampa, FL, 33619
(v) 813-622-8252; (f) 813-628-4425
(E) solomod@snoopy.tbtc.lib.fl.us

DATE: October 13, 1997

RE: Forms #470 & 471 and treatment of aggregate entities

I understand that on October 10 changes were made to the proposed applications for universal service support which will have a serious impact upon organizations which aggregate services for eligible facilities. The impact would be felt by school districts, public libraries with branches and library cooperatives.

TBTC is a multitype library cooperative providing Internet and library automation services to over 80 member libraries in a 12 county region or west central Florida. Like many cooperatives our staff is small and our services are many. The prospect of needing to file separate forms for each of the seven public libraries using a shared library automation system and for each public library and k-12 school using our Internet access is daunting. We would be challenged to attempt to do so because if we failed to make available to them the same financial benefits they would have alone, these members would be put at a disadvantage as a result of their cooperative efforts. In short, it goes against the trend to benefit from cooperation and creates a cooperative disadvantage.

I hope you will reconsider any changes that actively discourage aggregation and work to discourage libraries and schools from applying for the universal service discounts.

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ)

From: Kirstin Steele <ksteele@mail.wrl.org>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("mnadel@fcc.gov")
Date: 10/13/97 1:17pm
Subject: application process for library telecomm rates

Mr. Nadel and Ms. Flannery:

I understand there is movement to make requirements more stringent for the discounted telecommunications rate to public libraries and schools. I wanted to write and ask that the application requirements be made as clean and simple as possible. Such simplification will place less burden on the libraries and schools and their staffs as well as on the state agencies and other clearinghouses and federal staffs who must approve the applications.

In addition, allowing a single application to suffice for a library system or consortia will also save time and paper on all ends. The spirit of the legislation which will lead to the discounted telecommunications rate seems to be to give greater access to information to the public. By simplifying the applications process, librarians and teachers can more quickly get back to the business of disseminating online information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kirstin Steele

Kirstin Steele	Voice: 757-259-7752
Deputy Director	FAX : 757-259-7798
Williamsburg Regional Library	e-mail: ksteele@wrl.org
7770 Croaker Road	
Williamsburg VA 23188	

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ), ALA_DC_DMN.INET("iflanne...)

From: Martha Story <mstory@leo.vsla.edu>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("mnadel@fcc.gov")
Date: 10/13/97 3:44pm
Subject: Universal Service application process

Please do not allow the application process for Universal Service to become too complex. The more difficult it becomes the more of a burden it becomes to those who need the discounts most, ie poor and rural schools and libraries. This defeats the purpose of the proposal.

Please keep the process as simple and straightforward as possible.

Thank you.

Martha Story

--

Martha Story
Director
Mathews Memorial Library
Main Street P.O. Box 980
Mathews, VA 23109
Phone 804-725-5747
FAX 804-725-7668
e-mail mstory@leo.vsla.edu

CC: Martha Story <mstory@leo.vsla.edu>

From: Joie Taylor <jtaylor@gilligan.esu7.k12.ne.us>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("lflanner@fcc.gov")
Date: 10/13/97 11:08am
Subject: Universal Service program

I'm am writing to ask that you keep the application process for the Universal Service Program as simple as possible. Our school district as well as most others in Nebraska do not employ grant writers. The application will be done by someone who already has more than enough to keep him busy. The ability to aggregate our schools is important if we are going to get the best rate.

While I understand you need to be sure the money is being used properly and wisely, please do not make the process so burdensome that schools are discouraged from apply.

Joie Taylor
Coordinator of Library Services
Columbus Public Schools
P.O. Box 947
Columbus, NE 68602
(402) 563-7000
fax (402) 563-7005
email: jtaylor@gilligan.esu7.k12.ne.us

Change is difficult,
even when you want it.

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ)

From: Susan Taylor <taylors@cs.mcperson.edu>
To: "'mnadel@fcc.gov'" <mnadel@fcc.gov>, "'iflanner@fc...
Date: 10/10/97 6:39pm
Subject: SERIOUS PROBLEMS ON DISCOUNTS

As a small college librarian and resident of a predominantly rural state, I oppose the proposed application forms for the universal service program.

These changes in the forms will dramatically increase the level of burden faced by libraries and schools in filling out the application forms. These burdens will actively discourage aggregation (which is perhaps the single most effective way of lowering costs for libraries and schools), and, in fact, discourage libraries and schools from applying for the discount program.

CC: "'asj@alawash.org'" <asj@alawash.org>

From: Jon Threshie <jthresh@srvusd.k12.ca.us>
To: Mark Nadel <mnadel@fcc.gov>, Irene Flannery <iflan...
Date: 10/13/97 11:45am
Subject: Application for discount calculations

Dear Mr. Nadel and Ms. Flannery, we have been informed of ongoing deliberations at the FCC pertaining to discounts which may be offered in future to public schools and libraries. While we look forward to any program which will help us save money and do more with funds that we do receive, we feel it critical that the government do everything possible to simplify the process by which public schools and libraries apply for the discounts.

In fact, we feel that an overly complex application process will dis-incent districts and schools from taking advantage of the program. So please, consider simplicity and lack of overhead as your critical design elements as you press forward with the excellent idea of presenting substantial cost savings to the schools and libraries. If the process is not relatively simple to execute, we will squander the advantages offered by the discount on costly application procedures, and the program will fail to help a substantial number of districts, schools, and libraries.

Thank you for your efforts, and remember, to maximize benefits, keep the process simple, keep the forms and calculations simple and completely 'do-able' by the individual school or library. Otherwise, the benefits will simply not match the costs for many public schools.

Jon

Jon Threshie
Director, Technology
San Ramon Valley Unified School District

CC: Aleck Johnson <asj@alawash.org>

From: Barbara Walker <bwalker@ncsl.dcr.state.nc.us>
To: Mark Nadel <mnadel@fcc.gov>, Irene Flannery <iflan...
Date: 10/14/97 8:49am
Subject: Universal Service Forms

-- [From: Barbara Walker * EMC.Ver #2.5.02] --

It has been brought to my attention that there is a change proposed which would complicate the application process for systems applying for the library telecommunication discounts. This very rural system is made up of 8 very small branches. All accounting is handled centrally, and budgeting is uniform. To have to apply by branch library would complicate our lives unduly and really penalize the smallest of our service areas. I encourage you to return to a form which will allow us to apply by library administrative system. Thank you for considering those of us for whom this can mean the most.

Barbara Walker
Director, BHM Regional Library
bwalker@ncsl.dcr.state.nc.us

CC: Aleck Johnson <asj@alawash.org>

From: Kinsley Library <kinslllb@midway.net>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ)
Date: 10/13/97 1:29pm
Subject: Opposition to changes on Form 470 & 471

Sent to: Mark Nadel & Irene Flannery

This letter is to indicate my opposition to proposed changes on the application forms (Forms 470 and 471) for Universal Service which would add burdensome calculations.

Universal Service was conceived to help make knowledge and information accessible to ALL citizens. In an age where information is becoming more and more expensive, the free public library needs help in its struggles to do this. Universal Service was to lighten that burden. But if the application process becomes so complicated that small and rural libraries are discouraged from applying, it will have failed. Pariticipation among the poorest and most rural schools and libraries will effectively be denied. Please do no make the application so complex.

Thank you.

Joan K. Weaver
Director Kinsely Public Library
Kinsley, KS

From: "Art Weeks" <aweeks@lakenet.org>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("iflanner@fcc.gov", "mnadel@fcc.gov...
Date: 10/14/97 5:06am
Subject: Universal Service Discount Forms

Dear Mr. Mark Nadel and Ms. Irene Flannery:

As the Executive Director of a multi-county rural public library system in central New York State (Finger Lakes Library System) I wish to object to the design of any application form for universal discount that undermines the economies realized by library systems.

The Finger Lakes Library System achieves an economy of service, both in purchasing and staffing, by aggregating services to member libraries. We expect to achieve the benefit of the Universal Discount Program as a library consortium. We provide leased line and dial access services for data transmission that provides information access and library cataloging. We anticipate completing a system-wide form to realize a discount for these services.

According to the American Library Association, discussions concerning discounts have drifted to a concept of separate applications for each site served. This will needlessly add the burden of paperwork. If the purpose of the Universal Discount Program is to achieve economies for schools and libraries, this idea works against that objective.

We look forward to a speedy resolution to this problem. We further look forward to receiving the application forms so we may move ahead with the Universal Service Discount Program as originally intended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Arthur Weeks
Executive Director
Finger Lakes Library System
314 North Cayuga Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

Voice: (607) 273-4074 ext 22.

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ)

From: Aura Central or The White Tornado <ROBERT@bccls.org>
To: ALA_DC_DMN.INET("IFLANNER@FCC.GOV", "MNADEL@FCC.GOV...
Date: 10/10/97 6:51pm
Subject: Comments on the discounts for schools and libraries

Dear Friends,

We urge you to do everything possible to make sure that qualifying forms for schools and public libraries minimize paperwork and maximize participation for EVERYONE!

We are currently benefiting from Bell Atlantic's program in New Jersey (effective since September 1) of deep discounts for high speed Internet and data lines. The intent of the discounts enacted in the Telecommunications Act is to insure that everyone has equitable access to the Internet. Do not maim what for many libraries will be a program killer with forms, hierarchical signoffs, or micromanaged building by building control.

THank you for your consideration

Robert W. White
Bergen County (NJ) Cooperative Library System
Executive Director
201-489-1904

p.s. if we can handle 70 AUTONOMOUS (that's separate boards) libraries with one phone bill, you should find a way of simplifying the FCC's forms.

CC: ALA_DC_DMN.ALA_DC_PO(ASJ), ALA_DC_DMN.INET("ROBERT@...